



Proposed Forest Health Hazard Warning

Klickitat and Yakima Counties

July 23, 2012

Summary

The Commissioner of Public Lands is proposing a “forest health hazard warning” under Washington State law for portions of Klickitat and Yakima counties.

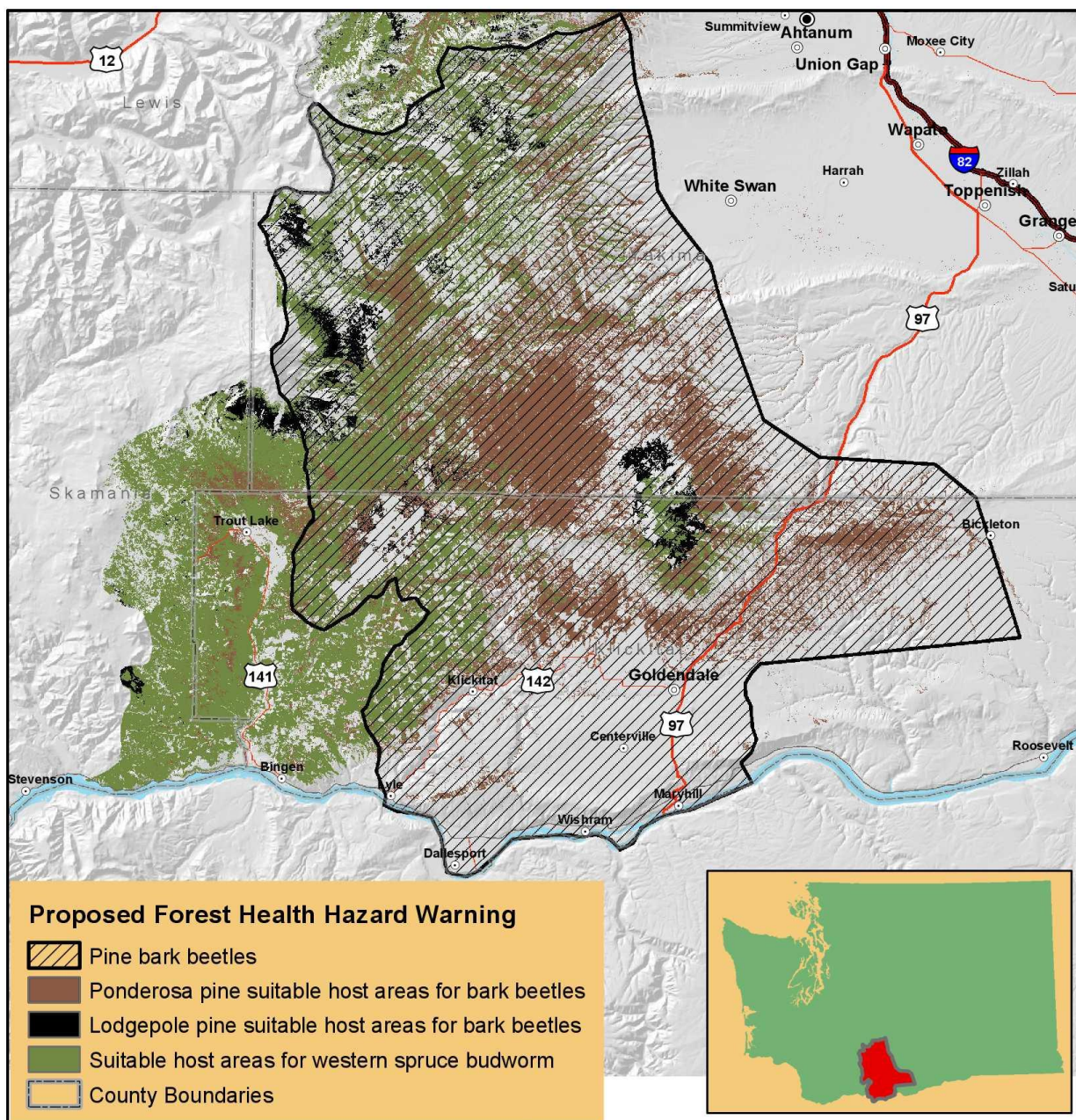
- The purpose of a warning is to call attention to deteriorating forest conditions and help coordinate timely actions to address the situation. All actions are voluntary on the part of the affected landowners and land managers.
- The warning is being issued to address pine bark beetle hazard in the two counties.
- These are native insects, but current forest conditions are ripe for severe and widespread damage from outbreaks. These same kinds of forest conditions can worsen wildfire hazards. Careful thinning and other forest management actions can reduce the hazard.
- A nine-member technical advisory committee was convened in January and worked throughout the spring. They identified pine bark beetles in Klickitat and Yakima counties as an area of concern and Commissioner Goldmark is proposing a warning based on their findings.
- Forest health concerns exist throughout eastern Washington, many of them severe. Yet, it is not possible or desirable to thin every last acre. Therefore, the committee prioritized top prospects for landscapes warranting focused action under state law. This included looking at current damage, projected future hazards, and the best potential for on-the-ground results.

Purpose of this Public Meeting

The purpose of this discussion is to provide more information about how DNR arrived at this proposal; to become more familiar with the insects and forest conditions that enable them to spread; and to provide feedback that will help make this project successful.

Questions We Have for You

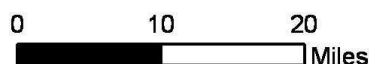
- Some funding is available for assistance and projects, but is limited. Are there specific places within the proposed warning area that should be the focus of our efforts?
- The forest conditions of concern are widespread. Are there specific actions we can take to help coordinate actions across larger areas?
- What are the most efficient and thoughtful ways we can encourage people to take action?

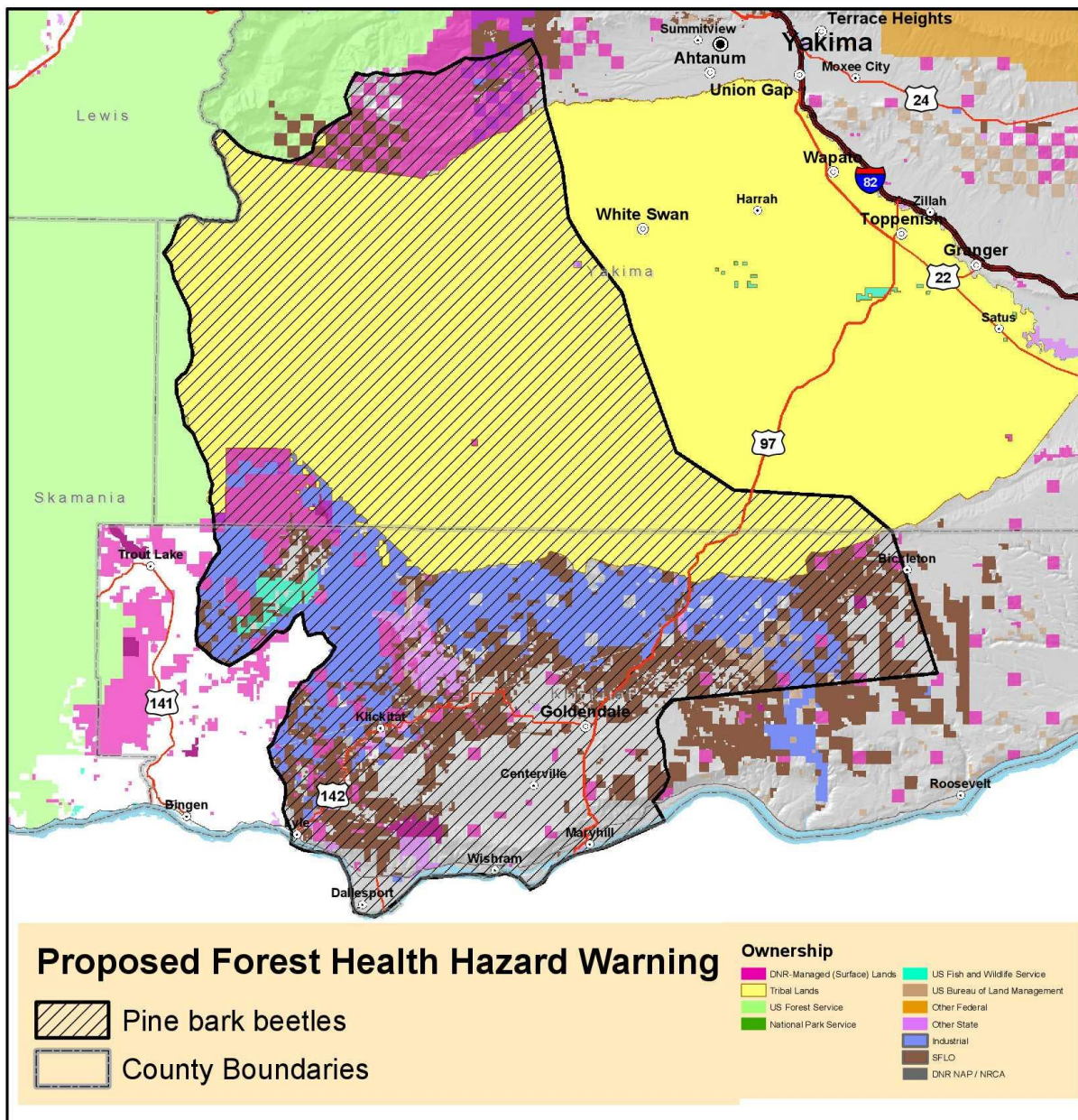


Data sources:
 Suitable host area for pine bark beetles created from a query of mr222_sppsz06 and mr1_sppsz00 GNN layers downloaded from LEMMA.
 Query of GNN layer based on the following attributes:
 -Ponderosa pine or lodgepole pine comprised 30% or more of total stand basal area
 -Quadratic mean diameter of 8 inches or greater
 -Total stand basal area of 120 sq ft (11.14 sq m) or greater
 SQL Query for ponderosa pine: "PIPO_PCT_BA" >= 0.3
 AND "MAP_QMD" >= 8 AND "BA_GE_3" >= 11.14
 Suitable host area for WSBW created from a query of mr222_sppsz06 and mr1_sppsz00 GNN layers downloaded from LEMMA.
 Query of GNN layer based on the following attributes:
 -Fir comprised 40% or more of total stand basal area (ABGR, ABLA, PSME)
 -Two or more canopy layers
 -Total stand basal area of 120 sq ft (11.14 sq m) or greater



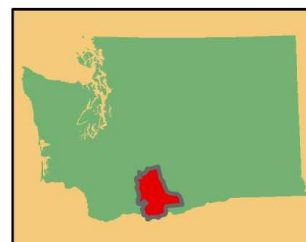
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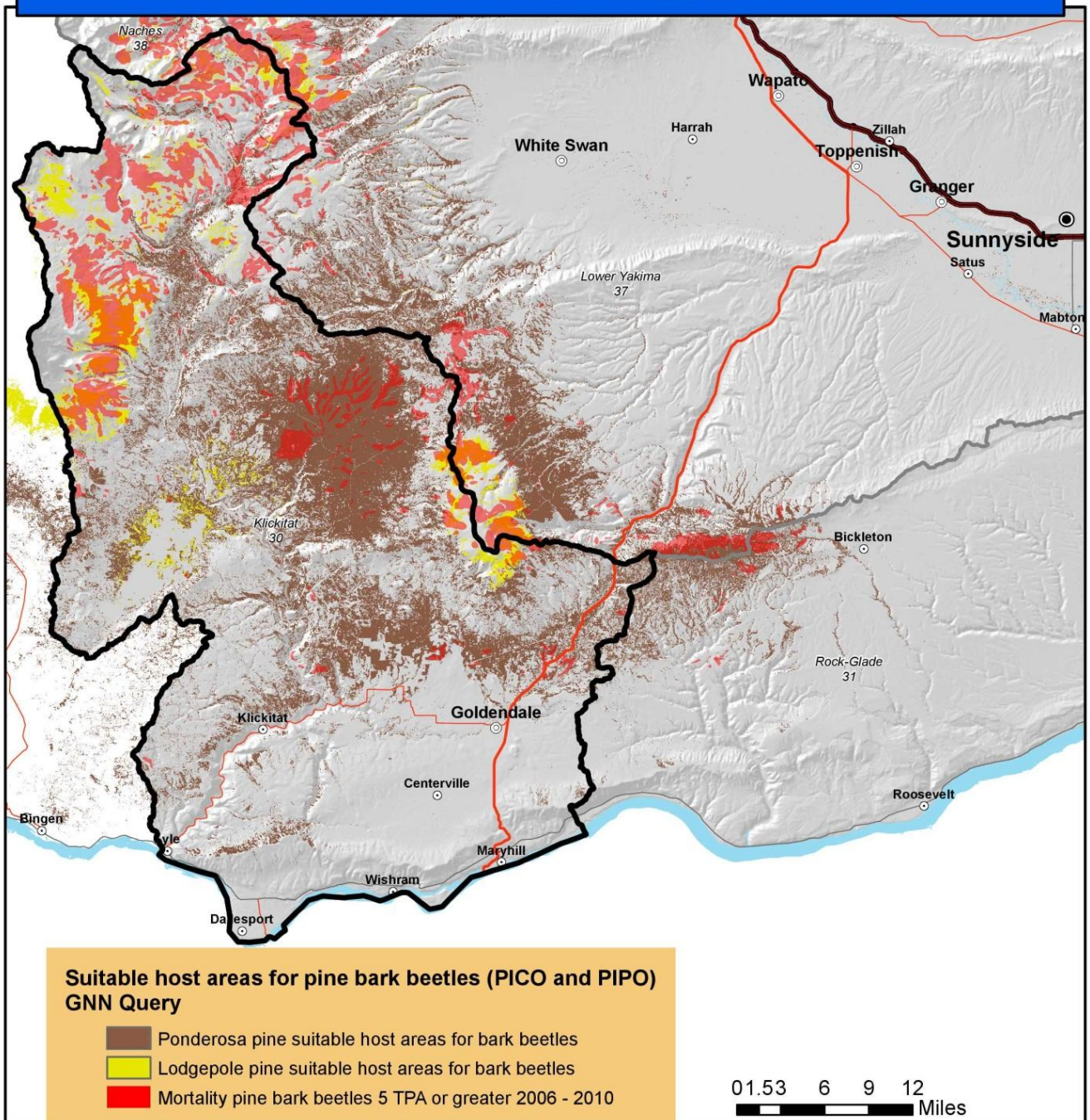


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 Miles



Suitable Host Areas for Pine Bark Beetles and 2006 - 2010 Mortality



Data sources:

GNN layer: mr222_spps206; downloaded from LEMMA.

Query of GNN layer based on the following attributes:

-Lodgepole pine or ponderosa pine comprised 30% or more of total stand basal area

-Quadratic mean diameter of 8 inches or greater

-Total stand basal area of 120 sq ft (11.14 sq m) or greater

SQL Query for Lodgepole pine: "PICO_PCT_BA" >=0.3 AND "IMAP_QMD" >=8 AND "BAA_GE_3" >=11.14

Layers developed based on query: pipo_bb_mr222; pipo_bb_mr222

Mortality layer: MM_2006_2010_WRIA_5_trees_or_more_Pine_BB_7.shp

WA DNR and USFS Forest Health Aerial Survey

Areas that have 5 TPA or greater observed dead from pine bark beetles for the period 2006 to 2010



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Photos: Pine bark beetles



Mountain pine beetle damage in ponderosa pine.
William M. Ciesla, Forest Health Management International, Bugwood.org



Adult mountain pine beetle
Ron Long, Simon Fraser University,
Bugwood.org



Western pine beetle damage.
James Everitt, Bugwood.org.



Pitch tubes on lodgepole pine from bark beetle
attack.
Mark McGregor, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org



Ponderosa pine stand thinned to decrease bark beetle
hazard.
Mike Johnson, Washington State Department of Natural Resources.



Lodgepole and ponderosa pine trees killed by
mountain pine beetle.